

Application Serial No. 10/684,215
Amendment dated DECEMBER 29, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action dated November 7, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 9 and 24. These sheets replace the original sheets bearing the aforementioned Figures. The Figures have been amended to correct reference numbers.

Attachment: 14 Replacement Drawing Sheets

R E M A R K S

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action of the Examiner mailed November 9, 2005. With this amendment, the specification and drawings have been amended in accordance with the Examiners suggestion. Additionally, claim 55 has been amended to correct an antecedence issue noted by the Examiner, and claims 64-65 have been canceled. As such, claims 1-20, 22-48, 50-55, and 57-63 are pending. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the claims and specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Moreover it is noted that the cancellation of claims 64-65 reduces possible issues for Appeal. Thus, entry of this After-Final Amendment is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Drawings and Specification

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for a lack of correspondence between the drawings and the accompanying descriptive text. Fourteen replacement drawing sheets including amended Figures 9 and 24 are submitted herewith. In Figure 9, reference number "18" has been amended to be "28"; and in Figure 24, reference number "1272" has been amended to be "1242" and reference number "1170" has been amended to be "1270". Acceptance of the drawings is respectfully requested. The Examiner has also noted further editorial changes to the specification. Applicants have amended appropriately, thereby resolving the objections. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-20, 22-48, 50-54 and 60-63 are allowed, and that claims 55 and 57-59 would be allowable once the indefiniteness rejection is overcome.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 55 and 57-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Claim 55 has been amended appropriately, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 64 and 65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by either of Hamasaki et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,830,261, or Hamasaki et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,888,275.

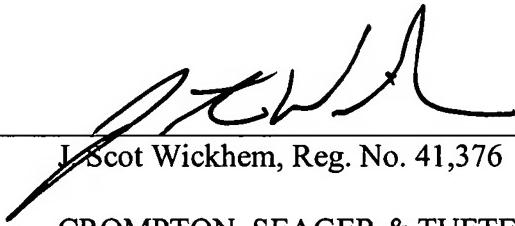
Claims 64 and 65 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,
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By their Attorney,

Date: December 29, 2005


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Appendix: 14 Replacement Drawing Sheets